(b) to (d) The gas production from Bombay High during 1993-94 was about 4539 MMSCM. This is presently transported to Uran through a subsea pipeline for use by industries in fertilizers, power, petro-chemicals etc. Another pipeline from Bombay High (ICP Platform) to Heera field is presently under construction to facilitate transportation of additional gas from Bombay High to Uran through the existing trunkline.

Economic viability of RAAVA Oil Field operated by ONGC

2971. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has assessed the economic viability of operating the Ravva oil field of Andhra Pradesh Coast;

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC wants to lease out this Ravva field to private sectors;

(c) what terms are expected from the private sector for the fields; and

(d) details of stand of the ONGC on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the award of contract for development of Ravva field to a consortium of Command Petroleum, Australia, Videocon International, India and Marubeni Corporation, Japan.

The Ravva field is to be developed by the consortium in joint venture with ONGC under production sharing arrangements with statutory levies like royalty and cas being payable. ONGC would be taking a 40% participating interest in the development of the Ravva field.

(d) The ONGC management has been fully associated with the various aspects related to the offer of the field.

Employees working in ONGC in Ravva Oil Field

2972. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of employees working in Oil and Natural Gas Commission presently in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of employees out of them working in Ravva Oil Field;

(c) the number of those employees who are permanent and temporary respectively at Ravva Oil Field; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to retrench any employees in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 1392 employees (including 772 executives) are working in Krishna-Godavari Project (Andhra Pradesh) of ONGC Ltd.

(b) and (c) 60 employees (including 28 executives) have been posted to look after operations in Ravva Oilfield. All these employees are regular.

(d) No, Sir.

Expansion in the refining capacity of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

2973. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hinudstan Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to expand its refining capacity;